

UCIA Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2016
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

Jacqueline Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Vicki Langford, *Registrar's Office*
Susan Neu, *Language and Culture Institute*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Victoria Borkovskaya, *Russia (Humphrey Fellow)*
Elizeo Joseph Odu, *South Sudan (Humphrey Fellow)*
Mayda Ramos Aleman, *Cuba (Humphrey Fellow)*
Chelsey Watts, *Assistant Director for Partnerships, Global Education Office*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of March minutes

Nicole Sanderlin called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves. A motion to accept the minute of the March meeting was made by Theresa Johansson, seconded by David Clubb, and approved unanimously.

2. Constituent reports

a. Graduate School

Monika Gibson reported that staff at the Graduate School are busy assisting students with matters related to graduation, including obtaining work authorization for international students.

b. Cranwell International Center

David Clubb announced that the Center will be partnering with the Graduate School to host an international achievement ceremony on May 11. This event is funded by the Office of the President and will be similar to other multi-cultural graduation celebrations. Approximately 180 international students will be graduating this year, with 300 attendees—honorees and guests—expected to attend the ceremony. The ceremony will take place from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the GLC auditorium with a reception following in the GLC multi-purpose room. Undergraduate student of the year Nneoma Nwankwo from Nigeria and graduate student of the year Richard Rodrigues from India will each make brief remarks. Guru Ghosh will be the keynote speaker. David added that the 57th annual Street Fair held on April 17 went well.

c. Language and Culture Institute

Susan Neu shared biographical sketches of this year's Humphrey Fellows cohort as well as additional information about the Mandela Fellows, who will be arriving in June. The LCI is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors and peer advisors for the Mandela Fellows.

d. Global Education

Theresa Johansson reported that the office is preparing students and faculty for summer program travel. She introduced Chelsey Watts, who recently joined the office as the assistant director for partnerships. Chelsey will be meeting with faculty and working with departments as well as students. She will be attending the NAFSA annual conference in Denver at the end of May to meet with partners and organizations such as ISEP (International Student Exchange Program).

David Clubb would like to collect names of other VT NAFSA attendees and organize a get-together in Denver.

3. Humphrey Fellows

Susan Neu introduced three members of the 2016 Humphrey Fellows cohort. This is a landmark year with the first participants ever from Cuba and South Sudan. The program is still looking for additional conversation partners to meet with the Fellows on an individual basis for about one hour each week in order for them to practice their English. The Fellows remarked on their favorable impression of the LCI and the way the program has been organized as well as how they are looking forward to this opportunity to become familiar with the American culture and participate in academic activities.

4. Alumni Awards for International Excellence

Winners for the Alumni Awards have been announced through University Relations. The winners of the awards for International Excellence are Lori Blanc (Biological Sciences, College of Natural Resources and the Environment), Education; Jianfeng Zheng (Schiffert Health Center), Outreach; and Rolf Müller (Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering), Research. Once again the Education category received the most submissions. This may have been due to the original award being only for International Programs, with the nomination criteria for the other awards being less detailed and descriptive. The review committee met again to standardize the language for the three awards, which will hopefully assist in increasing the number of nominations for the categories of Outreach and Research.

5. UCIA Membership Addendum Follow up

Nicole Sanderlin reported that the motion to add a representative from the Corps of Cadets to the UCIA membership has approved by COIA. In the process she was also informed that changes to the UCIA by-laws do not have to go through University Council. Furthermore, Chief of Staff Km O'Rourke suggested that the UCIA was more of a university operational committee, reporting to the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. Council members were unclear on the difference between a council and a committee, and whether or not their work would change or if this was a technicality. However, there were also concerns raised that this was a directive coming from the Presidents' office and indicative of the council being downgraded. International matters have not been as prominent as council members would prefer and this could be interpreted as a further relegation.

6. Nomination of Vice Chair for 2016-2017

Nicole Sanderlin reminded the group that it needs to nominate a vice chair for 2016 - 2017. David Clubb has served as vice chair this year and will assume leadership of the council in the coming year. Council members suggested nominating Ian Leuschner, who was not present at the meeting to accept or decline. Dr. Sanderlin will follow up with him.

7. Other items

- Theresa Johansson elaborated on the IEPC and its role as a subcommittee of the UCIA. The IEPC was created to serve as a smaller working group, with its agenda and goals to be set by the UCIA. Earlier in the year there was some confusion regarding this charge, resulting in less frequent meetings. In the future the IEPC will only meet on an as-needed basis. Dr. Ghosh's role with the

group was also not clear; at its inception he chaired the meetings. Membership will consist primarily of the college reps, plus Ian Leuschner and Theresa Johansson. The IEPC was originally formed “to deal with all aspects of international education” as notes from an earlier meeting indicated. The group will begin meeting again at the start of the next academic year. Among the items they will address are the revisions to the summer programs. Reed Kennedy reported that Pamplin has seen a dramatic decline in participation after the tuition model changed. Theresa also discussed updates concerning the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC). Revisions to the 1070 Global Travel Policy were presented to the President’s Safety and Security Committee; the section on the authorization to cancel programs was approved.

- Virginia Tech’s student Fulbright finalists were announced. They are:
 - Matthew “Jake” Mathey, BS, Mechanical Engineering: English Teaching Assistantship (Poland)
 - Nora Salem, MFA, Creative Writing: “Understanding Islamic Feminism through Personal and Public Spirituality” (Malaysia)
 - Andrew Gaddis, VTCSOM: “Exchanges Beyond Needles at Insite, North America’s Only Supervised Injection Site” (Canada)

A fourth student was also named a finalist, but the grant differed substantially from what he had originally applied for, so he declined the award.

Faculty members were urged to nominate or encourage prospective students to apply for the Fulbright awards; the competition is now open through mid-October. Nicole Sanderlin thanked the Global Education Office for hosting the Fulbright reception on April 12.

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Next meetings for 2015-2016 academic year (all meetings to take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room A, International Affairs Offices):

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